

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 were pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended and Claims 4, 10, and 12 have been canceled, without prejudice. No new matter have been added. Therefore, after entry of these amendments, Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-15 will be pending.

In the Office Action mailed June 20, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,475,564 to Koester et al ("Koester"), claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koester, and Claims 4-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koester in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0100659 to Carmichael ("Carmichael"). It is noted that Claim 1, 11, and 13 have been amended. To the extent that the grounds for rejection are still applied to the currently pending claims, they are respectfully traversed, as follows.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Koester fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 1, as amended. In particular, Koester only relates to a coin operated and handling apparatus and therefore, fails to teach or suggest a door arranged in front of the cabinet so as to be able to open and close; a frame arranged at a rear side of the door; a game medium guide member arranged in the frame; a retaining member installed adjacent to the game medium guide member in the frame; and support shafts formed on both side walls of the straddling member so as to outwardly project from the side walls, the support shafts being rotatably supported in the

retaining member, wherein the support shafts are positioned at a substantially right under position of a fall position of the game medium falling toward the straddling member, as recited in Claim 1, as amended.

In the coin handling apparatus of Koester, coins are first directed to a hopper 16. When a microswitch 44 detects that sufficient coins have been collected in the hopper 16, the coins are dispensed into a diverter box 25. Then, if a diverter plate 34 provided in the diverter box 25 is positioned as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, the coins dispensed from a bawl 20 of the hopper 16 is dropped into a drop box 14 through a chute 30. Meanwhile, when a payout condition occurs, a solenoid 32 is driven and the diverter plate 34 is retracted to a position as shown in 33 of Fig. 4 against the bias of a spring 26, and thereby the coins are dispensed into a coin tray 18.

Koester, however, fails to teach or suggest support shafts formed on both side walls of the straddling member so as to outwardly project from the side walls, the support shafts being rotatably supported in the retaining member and being positioned at a substantially right under position of a fall position of the game medium falling toward the straddling member, as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, as described above, Koester also fails to teach or suggest a door arranged in front of the cabinet so as to be able to open and close; a frame arranged at a rear side of the door; a game medium guide member arranged in the frame; a retaining member installed adjacent to the game medium guide member in the frame, as recited in Claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Koester and is allowable over Koester.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 15 by Koester, the Examiner mentioned nothing about the tubular guiding part recited in Claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that Koester fails to teach or suggest at least the combination of features of a straddling member rotatably supported in the cabinet, the straddling member having a tubular guiding part for guiding the game medium to the game medium accumulating part, and a driving device for rotating the straddling member, wherein the driving device rotates the straddling member between a first rotational position and a second rotational position, wherein the tubular guiding part of the straddling member opposes to an opening of the second guide path and closes an opening of the third guide path while the straddling member is retained to the first rotational position by the driving device, thereby the game medium is straddled to the game medium accumulating part through the first guide path, the tubular guiding part and the second guide path, and wherein the tubular guiding part of the straddling member closes the opening of the second guide path while the straddling member is retained to the second rotational position by the driving device, thereby the game medium is straddled to the game medium paying out part through the first guide path, an outer wall of the tubular guiding part and the third guide path, as recited in Claim 15.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is not anticipated by Koester and is patentable over the cited art.

Camichael fails to cure the deficiency of Koester. Therefore, Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-24 should also be allowable based on the reasons stated above and at least due to their dependency from patentable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 13-15, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing docket number **024016-00072**.

Respectfully submitted,



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